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Gynandromorphism in the Pink-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus rhodochrous*

by Per Alström and Urban Olsson

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On 28 April 1983 in Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary, Kashmir, when observing a flock of the sexually dimorphic Pink-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus rhodochrous*, our attention was drawn to a single bird sitting in a bush near the flock. We had previously seen and identified it as a female or, possibly, second calendar-year male, and had watched it move about in the bush for a while. Yet, on turning to look at it again, the same bird showed adult male plumage.

It turned out that the bird was divided sagittally, being in female-type plumage on the right half of the body and adult male on the left. Although we had no opportunity to examine the bird in the hand, the line of division seemed well defined, and we could see no flaws in the plumage on either side. The bird disappeared after a few minutes and could not be relocated.

Gynandromorphism has been recorded in a number of passerine species and also in some non-passerines, including the Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*, Flicker *Colaptes auratus* and Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus* (Harrison 1985). According to Laybourne (1967) it is rare that the male plumage is on the left side of the body. Kumerloeve (1987) discusses the condition, citing all recorded cases known to him.

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